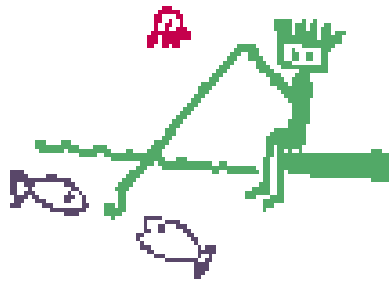


August 22, 2002

**San Juan River Basin
Recovery Implementation Program
Hydrology Committee
August 20, 2002
Draft Conference Call Summary**



Members/Alternates Present:

Pat Page, Chairman
Ray Alvarado
Ron Bliesner
Dave Frick
Steve Harris
Bill Miller
John Simons
Bernadette Tsosie
Brian Westfall
John Whipple

Others present:

Dave King
Marilyn Greenberg, Program Assistant
Shirley Mondy, Program Coordinator

Representing: _____

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
State of Colorado
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Water Development Interests
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Navajo Nation
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
State of New Mexico

Representing:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Introductions and Review of Agenda Items

Conference call attendees introduced themselves and approved the agenda with the changes noted below.

Discussion of the status of the Long Range Plan was added to the agenda.

Baseline depletions and consultations will be addressed at the October 29th meeting if Joy Nicholopoulos can join us via conference call. There were questions regarding what is in the existing baseline and what is needed for a model run.

Review of the June 25, 2002 Draft Meeting Summary

On page three, under Budget and Status Report, Dave King explained that he actually used New Mexico's Hammond Project Irrigated acreage and not Reclamation's data as he had stated at the June meeting. King sent a note to New Mexico at that time. Because he used New Mexico's data, there were no discrepancies.

The June 25, 2002 draft meeting summary was amended to include most of John Whipple's suggested edits, and was then approved.

Review of the Action Item Log

There was discussion of the completion of a Hydrology Committee risk analysis on the impacts of implementation of the flow recommendations in this drought year. John Simons is going to prepare the risk analysis on the effects to the water supply. The Biology Committee needs information regarding the risks of not meeting base flows for next year. Reclamation expects to be able to provide this information prior to September 24, 2002. Pat Page mentioned that Reclamation has tentatively set a meeting for September 24, 2002, to discuss FY03 reservoir operations with all affected parties.

Budget and Status Report

Pat Page addressed the July 30, 2002 budget table and concerns that some areas may be over budget. There is a month and a half left in this fiscal year and the money will be spent. Reclamation will get new their hydrologist involved and, hopefully, this will serve to get the budget back on track. Some items are taking longer and costing more than originally planned, but Reclamation hopes to get back on schedule. Pat Page will attend the Coordination Committee meeting to discuss the FY 03 budget request. Committee members indicated that Pat Page was doing a good job and asked that he just continue to stay on top of tracking the budget.

Dave King indicated that he and Pat Page would prepare a more thorough review of the Hydrology model timeline, schedule, and costs before the Sept 25th Coordination Committee meeting. If there are any budget or schedule changes, they will be reviewed with Hydrology Committee before being presented at the Coordination Committee meeting.

Discussion of Operating Criteria

Although some Committee members had not had a chance to review the 8/19/02 document, Ron Bliesner asked the Committee to discuss it today. It is an ongoing process and will require trial and error. He asked that members email further comments and concerns to him as soon as possible. Bliesner explained that the operating criteria background is explained in the 8/19/02 Hydrology Model Draft Operating Criteria document. The structure is shown by the decision tree. The structure will stay about the same, although the items (triggers) in the decision tree may change. In response to a question about whether decisions could be tracked, Dave King explained that the path is recorded over time. Path numbers are used and Keller-Bliesner can give others and the Hydrology Committee the key to the path numbers so that someone who is not familiar with RiverWare can follow the changes and decisions. The modelers are also looking closer at trying to match the Animas for a spring peak release. They will be looking at some climate data to see if they can more closely match the Animas.

The Hydrology Committee should review the document and provide comments to King, Bliesner, Westfall. ***Hydrology Committee members should email their comments to Dave King, Ron Bliesner, and/or Brian Westfall by mid-September.***

Data Needs to Complete Modeling Work

This is summarized in the attached operating criteria (8-19-02) sent out by Dave King.

Navajo Reservoir Operations - Discussion of Latest Forecast

John Simons went over the latest forecast for the basin, which is not very good. Reclamation is

still evaluating several operating alternatives to determine affects on users. As mentioned earlier, Reclamation has tentatively scheduled a meeting for the afternoon of September 24, in Farmington, to discuss these issues.

Status of Long Range Plan

Shirley Mondy indicated that Jim Brooks has concerns with the Hydrology Committee's suggestions for Section 2, which is the basis of the Long Range Plan. His new target for completion of the LRP revisions is this week. The revised LRP should be out soon; watch for it and be ready to comment again.

Bernadette Tsosie had suggestions/comments on sections: 4.4 and 4.5. It was suggested that she send her comments to Jim Brooks.

Other:

Bill Miller questioned whether the Hydrology Committee needed a peer review panel to review its Scopes of Work for water and temperature modeling. The Biology Committee has a peer review panel to review work. The Coordination Committee informed the Biology Committee that it needed peer review, and this may be the case for the Hydrology Committee as well. If so, the Committee will need to determine who would be the right people outside of the Hydrology Committee to perform that review. ***Pat Page suggested that this be added as an agenda item for the next meeting, and for Committee members to bring ideas and suggestions regarding peer review to the next meeting.***

Shirley Mondy stated that bound copies of the FY02 Annual Budget and Work Plans had been received and will be sent out to each Committee member.

The next meeting will be on October 29, 2002 in Farmington, New Mexico from 8:30am - 4pm.